



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

MAY 26 2017

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
Russell Senate Office Building, Suite 478
Washington, D.C. 20510-3205

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your May 23, 2017 letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt concerning the second five-year review of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. I am responding on behalf of Administrator Pruitt. In your letter, you request that the EPA follow New York State's recommendation and determine in the five-year review that the cleanup is not protective of human health and the environment.

First, let me assure you that the EPA shares your goal of protecting public health and supporting the economic vitality of the communities along the Hudson River. That is why EPA has used the full power and authority of the federal Superfund law to require the General Electric Co. to conduct the largest and most expensive cleanup of river sediments in the history of the Superfund program.

In conducting the current five-year review of the cleanup, EPA must follow the law of the federal Superfund statute and apply the best available science. The review includes a comprehensive assessment of the available data for PCB concentrations in sediment, water, and fish. The EPA must evaluate whether the remedy is, or will be, protective of human health and the environment, based on the data currently available. Please note that it will be necessary to collect several years of post-dredging PCB data in fish, sediment and water to determine with a reasonable degree of scientific certainty the rate at which PCB levels are declining. If, as a result of the current or a future five-year review, the EPA determines that that remedy is not expected to achieve its goals, the EPA will consider what actions are needed.

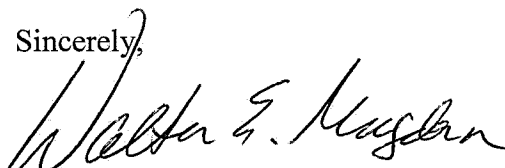
In an effort to conduct the five-year review in an open and transparent manner, in the spring of 2016 the EPA established a "Five-Year Review Team" which includes representatives of New York State, the federal natural resource trustees and the public. The EPA has held a number of meetings and conference calls with the Five-Year Review Team, as well as public workshops, to explain and solicit feedback on the five-year review. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), which concurred with the EPA's selected cleanup remedy in 2002, has participated in all of the five-year review meetings to date.

As the project moves forward, the EPA will continue to follow the science and the Superfund law. The EPA will continue to monitor the river fish, water and sediment and evaluate the reductions in PCB levels over time. In addition, the EPA will continue to coordinate closely with the involved state and federal agencies including NYSDEC, the New York State Department of Health, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The EPA will also continue to coordinate with the Hudson River Foundation and others who are involved with the New York-New Jersey Harbor.

We appreciate your continued interest and engagement with EPA on the cleanup of the Hudson River.

If you have further questions, please contact me at (212) 637-5000 or Gary Klawinski, Director of the Hudson River Field Office at (518) 407-0400 or Klawinski.gary@epa.gov.

Sincerely,


for Catherine R. McCabe
Acting Regional Administrator



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MAY 26 2017

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Maloney:

Thank you for your May 23, 2017 letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt concerning the second five-year review of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. I am responding on behalf of Administrator Pruitt. In your letter, you request that the EPA follow New York State's recommendation and determine in the five-year review that the cleanup is not protective of human health and the environment.

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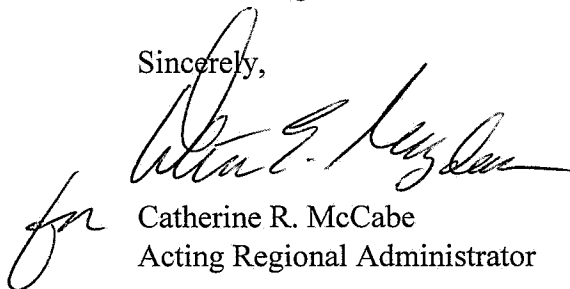
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Catherine R. McCabe
Acting Regional Administrator



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MAY 26 2017

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
U.S. House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lowey:

Thank you for your May 23, 2017 letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt concerning the second five-year review of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. I am responding on behalf of Administrator Pruitt. In your letter, you request that the EPA follow New York State's recommendation and determine in the five-year review that the cleanup is not protective of human health and the environment.

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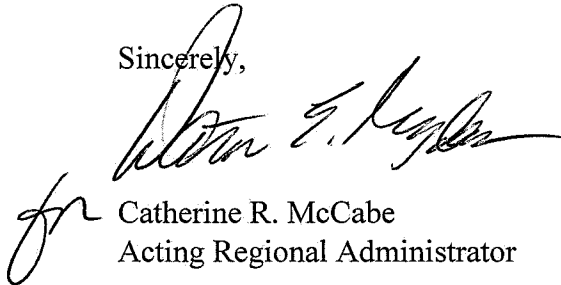
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Catherine R. McCabe
Acting Regional Administrator



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MAY 26 2017

The Honorable Elliot Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-3216

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your May 23, 2017 letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt concerning the second five-year review of the Hudson River PCBs Superfund Site. I am responding on behalf of Administrator Pruitt. In your letter, you request that the EPA follow New York State's recommendation and determine in the five-year review that the cleanup is not protective of human health and the environment.

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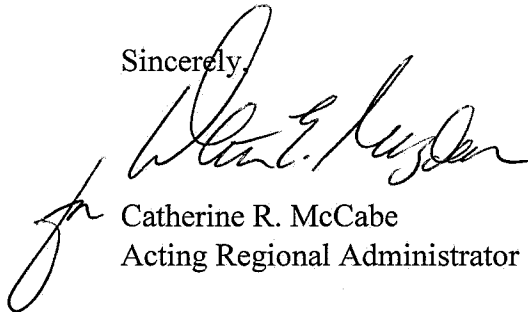
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Catherine R. McCabe
Acting Regional Administrator



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MAY 26 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

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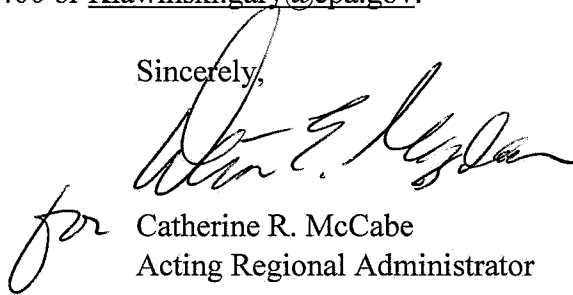
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